

## **Minutes of DAAC Meeting**

### **Attendance**

DAAC members present were: Seren Derin (SD), Chair; Joe Tringali (JT), Vice-chair; Irene Barrelet (IB), Clerk; Gerry Weiss; Jim MacRostie (JM)

Others present were: Tory Dixon; Alisa Brewer, Select Board Representative; and Nathaniel Malloy, DAAC staff liaison.

Absent: Dana Goddard (DG) and Joan Swift (JS)

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Derin called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Happy Birthday Jim!

### **MINUTES**

Minutes from the August 10, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously (5-0) (IB moved, GW seconded) as submitted.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Officers/Membership**

The committee agreed to wait until a future meeting when all members are in attendance to elect officers. However, the committee discussed sending representatives to the Community Development Committee (CDC) and whether the CDC, similar to the Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC), should be composed of members from other boards/committees that have jurisdiction over areas relevant to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs. The discussion occurred because there are three vacancies on the CDC and there have been concerns raised about how they oversee the public participation process during CDBG applications. IB moved that the CDC be an independent committee such that there are no representatives from other Town boards or committees; it shall be composed of members who are not on other boards/committees, in particular, those that are eligible to apply for CDBG funds. GW seconded and the vote was unanimous (5-0) in favor of the motion.

#### **Boltwood Walk**

Mr. Malloy discussed plans by the Town to resurface the entrance to the Bangs Community Center along Boltwood Walk. The plans call for the removal of the trees and brick paving, replaced by scored concrete walkways and two orthree tree boxes. It was explained that the area is not accessible and that numerous patrons of the Bangs Center have tripped or fallen recently on the sidewalk.

SD noted that although the Town had not been held legally accountable, it is responsible to maintain public infrastructure, especially when it is so heavily used.

The question was raised if the remaining Boltwood Walk area could be resurfaced because of the failed pavers, and if the Town could work with private property owners to help improve areas that are used as though they are public—i.e. the plaza outside of Rao's Coffee. It was asked to what extent the easement the Town had on Boltwood Walk made it responsible (and liable) for maintaining the pavers and ensuring there are no safety hazards on the sidewalk.

The committee recommended that the Town investigate alternative designs that did not remove all the trees.

#### Other

##### Playground at Crocker Farm Elementary School

Members of the public and committee members noted that many of the features of the new playground at Crocker Elementary school did not appear accessible or safe. The committee recommended that the Director of Facilities be contacted about the following concerns:

- The ramp into the play area appears too steep to not have railings.
- The wood chips look too rough to be an accessible surface.
- There needs to be a second ramp into the play area so that the wood border is not a barrier.
- The impact areas surrounding the equipment do not look large enough to prevent injury to those using the playground.
- None of the equipment looks to be accessible.
- There is not adequate signage indicating the location of the ramp and nearest HP parking.

##### Cowls Lane Curb Cut

GW discussed a curb cut along the south side of Cowls Lane that is commonly blocked by cars parking on-street. The curb cut aligns with a walkway that leads into the property of St. Brigid's Church. It was noted that this problem could be alleviated by moving the "no parking here to corner" sign just 10 feet west along the street.

##### Public Meeting Notices

Members of the committee discussed attending other public meetings hosted by the Town and finding it difficult to know whether there were accommodations for people with disabilities. It was recommended that all Town agendas and meeting notices include proper notification regarding accessibility and accommodations for people with disabilities.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Transition Plan and CDBG projects

Mr. Malloy talked about the upcoming CDBG application, due in mid-December, and that the DAAC could present project proposals. Updating the Transition Plan to reflect current priorities would help identify areas where those funds could be used to help remove barriers.

The committee noted that the Boltwood Walk area would be an ideal place to use CDBG funds to improve accessibility because of the volume of people who use it. It was asked if CDBG funds could be used to fund barrier removal on private property, and if so, could a revolving fund could

be established to have resources available when projects arise. It was noted that even the private property along Boltwood Walk is used by citizens as if it were public property.

JT recommended that the Boltwood Walk area be included in the Transition Plan as a high priority, based on use, number of pedestrian accidents, and its location in the Town Center.

The committee also asked if CDBG funds could be used to improve playgrounds at Town schools, especially in light of the concerns of Crocker Elementary.

The committee discussed the idea of holding public forums in early spring each year to receive public opinion regarding the areas that need improved accessibility to help prioritize CDBG projects.

Other

Boltwood Parking Lot

It was discussed that the HP parking spaces behind the Monkey Bar do not have adequate unloading aisles. This remains an issue even though the relevant Town departments have been contacted.

**Materials Distributed at Meeting** (available upon request in the Planning Department at Town Hall)

Agenda  
August 10, 2010 Meeting Minutes  
CDBG project proposal for audible signals at major intersections  
Map of Boltwood Walk  
Memorandum to AAB re ITD variance amendments  
Memorandum to the Planning Board re Comfort Station at Community Field

**Next Meeting(s)**

Tuesday, November 9, 2010 @ 11:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, December 7, 2010 @ 11:30 a.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Nathaniel Malloy, staff liaison